

286.4769

H53

MINUTES

OF THE

MEMBERS OF THE HIGHLAND

ASSOCIATION OF

BAPTISTS,

HELD AT

Bethel Meeting House,

HENDERSON COUNTY, KY.

Commencing on Friday, preceding the second
Lord's day in September, 1832.

RUSSELLVILLE.

PRINTED AT THE CHAMPION OFFICE

1832.

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder E. W. Earl, agreeable to appointment; from 1st Sam'l. 3 Chapt. 18th verse, "It is the Lord let him do what seemeth him good."

Letters from the following Churches were read, and their Messengers enrolled, viz:

Bethel M.—No letter nor messengers,
 Bethel H.—G. Negly, J Pry, C. Hebard,
 Cypress.—J. Arnold,
 Canoe Creek—J Rankin, J Fellows,
 Cane Run.—Elder, B Ezell, W Metcalfe,
 Flat Creek—Elder E W Earl, D Fox H Sisk,
 Grave Creek—Eld., W Hatchet, R Church J
 Cheaney
 Highland—W Hosman, D Threkil
 Providence—Elder, J Dorris, E Givens J Ma-
 thews,
 Little Bethel—Eld. W C Buck, A M Henry,
 Salem—W Hickerson, W Cruise,
 Tirza—D Trice, A Cates,
 Unity—J Stuart,
 Ne whope—Eld. T Sisk, J Franklin' W Megrigor,

Baptised	R. L.	D. L.	Res o. ed	Excluded,	Dead,	Total.	Contribution,	Days of Meet- ing.
		2		20	1	53	3 75	3
	1	1		10		19	37 ¹ / ₂	3
					2	15	1 00	1
	5				1	49	1 10	2
20	10	4	3	2		70	1 50	1
22								
							1 00	2
3				1		36	2 00	3
6	1		1		1	76	2 00	3
	4	2				24	2 00	4
		2	1		1	15	75	4
			1		1	17	1 50	1
	2				1	50	86 ¹ / ₂	4
29	1		1	2		50	1 50	4

The Association being regularly organised, Elder Wm. C. Buck, was chosen Moderator, and Alexander M. Henry, clerk. Brethren Tison and Bethel requested to fill the stand to-day. Letters of Correspondence being called for, were received from the following Associations, viz:

Little River, by Elder W. Tison,
Salem, Indiana, by Elder L. Duncan, Elder C. Bethel,
E. King and T. Low,
Goshen by Elder T. Downs and Elder W. Downs,
Red River, by Elder John Bobbett.

Corresponding messengers invited to seats.

Resolved, That the committee of arrangements consist of the following brethren, viz, E. Givens, E W. Earl, W. Hatchet, J. Fellows, J. Dorris, with the Moderator and Clerk, who are to arrange the business of the Association for to-morrow, and make report:

The Circular Letter called for, read, and referred to the committee of arrangement.

A letter handed in, by brother John Willingham, referred to the committee of arrangement.

The following bretheren were appointed to write to the several Associations with which we correspond. viz: E. W. Earl to Little River—E. Givens, to Goshen—W. Hatchet, to Red River, and Sisk, to Salem.

The letter of correspondence from Salem Association, referred to the committee of arrangement.—Appointed brothers Bobbett, Moore, Wm. Downs and L. Duncan, to preach to-morrow.

Adjourned until to-morrow 9 o'clock.

Saturday.—Met agreeable to adjournment, & after singing and prayer by brother Bobbett, proceeded to business.

1st. The committee of arrangement made their report, which was received, and the committee discharged.

2nd. On motion, the rules of Decorum were read.

3d. The letter handed in by brother J. Willingham, was taken up and read; whereupon, upon motion,

Resolved, That the Association recommend to the Bethel Church, that she re-consider all her acts from last association, to this time, which relates to the present difficulty; and

Resolved, Further, that the following brethren be a committee i. e. J. Arnold, J. Fellows, W. Metcalfe, C W. Ear

R. Church, W. Hosman, E. Givens, A. M. Henry, W. Cruise, D. Trice, J. Steuart and W. Meggrigor, one third of whom shall be a quorum to do business, whose duty it shall be to meet the church at her monthly session in November next and labour to reconcile them upon principles consistent with the directions of the Associations last year; and advise the brethren to act with christian love and forbearance; and that the committee report to the next Association.

4th. The corresponding letter from Salem Association taken into consideration; and after due deliberation,

Resolved, That our correspondent to Salem, be directed to inform that Association, that this Association have refered the subject to their next meeting in order to inform themselves more particularly concerning the matter suggested in their letter; and also that Goshen Association; be requested to give us all the information upon the subject which she may possess.

5th. The Committee appointed to visit the church at Grave Creek, report, that they visited the church agreeably to the appointment of the Association; since when the church has been restored to order.

6th. Brothers Fellows and Metcalfe, appointed a committee of Finance.

7th. The circular letter read the second time, read and ordered to be appended to our minutes.

8th. Brother J. Dorris, appointed to preach the next introductory sermon and in case of failure brother T. Sisk.

9th. The next Association to be held at Cypress Meeting House, Muhlenburgh county (Ky.) commencing on Friday preceding the second Lordsday, in Sept. 1833.

10th. The brethren appointed to write the several letters of correspondence, read them; which, were read, and the following brethren appointed to bear them to Little River, Elders T. Sisk and J. Dorris—Red River, Elders, Wm. C. Buck and B. Ezel!—Salem, Elders, J. Dorris, W. Hickerson and J. Fellows—Goshen, Elder, E. W. Earl.

11th. Appointed brothers Wm. C. Buck, J. Bobbett and T. Downs to preach on to-morrow.

12th. Brother A. M. Henry appointed to superintend the printing of the Minutes, and to have 400 copies struck, 50 to be reserved for the use of the association.

13th. The association direct the Treasurer to pay Br. C. Buck four dollars for superintending the printing of the Minutes past year.

14th. The committee of finance report the contributions for
 1832 to be - - - - - \$ 19, 55
 Received from the former Treasurer, - - - - - 3, 00
 Remaining in the hands of the Tr. from last year, 13, 75

Total, \$36, 30

15th. Brother W. Hickerson & J. Fellows appointed a committee to settle with our corresponding messengers, agreeably to a resolution of last year, who make their report and the association allow to Br. E. W. Earl \$ 3, 18 $\frac{1}{4}$.

16th. Brother E. W. Earl appointed to write our next Circular Letter.

17th. Resolved that our next Association convene at the the time and place above named, at 10 o'clock.

18th. Adjourned to the time and place above named.

Signed by order of the Association.

WM. C. BUCK, *Moderator*,

A. M. HENRY, *Clerk*.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

BRETHREN BELOVED IN THE LORD.

We your messengers and servants having met at Bethel in Henderson, according to adjournment, and having employed the usual time of our session, in devoutly deliberating upon the concerns and interests of Zion; feel it our duty to advise you in reference to the various matters which have passed under our consideration, and believing that the accompanying minutes will sufficiently inform you of the state of the Churches composing this Association, as well as some other interesting matters; we beg leave to refer you to them for such information, while we call your attention to a few things, which we think greatly concern the Churches.

We are aware, brethren, that many persons, even among those who seem to approve of associations, entertain the opinion that all attempts to enquire into the discipline of Churches, or to advise them in matters of doctrine or practice, is an unwarrantable infringement upon their independence. Such, however is not our opinion; indeed, the very object for which Associations were originated, was to promote uniformity of faith and practice among the Churches, as the foundation of their Independence, Union and Fellowship. To avoid prolixity, suffice it to say, that the discharge of no duty, imposed by the Churches themselves, can be an infringement upon their independence, so long as they reserve to themselves, the sole prerogatives of Government.

So far from feeling that we are invested with authority over the Churches, we feel sensibly that we are your servants, accountable to you for what we do, and that we are bound in duty, as your representatives, to enquire diligently into and to notify you of whatever concerns the happiness, the harmony, or the prosperity of Zion. It is under these impressions that we venture to call your attention to a few striking features in the present signs of the times, and which we conceive vitally to concern the Israel of God.

The exhibition of new and unscriptural theories in religion by proud, ambitious, covetous, and vainglorious, professors and hypocrites is not a peculiarity of the times in which we live: the mystery of iniquity began to work early in the history of the Church, and has been in operation ever since, assuming every variety of shade and aspect, which the enemy was capable of devising on the corrupt and rebellious hearts of men:—Each of which has been persued as long as it promised success, and followed by a succession of expedients, down to the present day, all intended to rob the Saviour of his crown and if possible to deceive the very elect.

Every age has been distinguished by some peculiar attitude of the enemy: (and so is the present) intended to meet and counteract some mighty movement of Zions King for the accomplishment of his great design of mercy. At no age has their been such a simultaneous move of all the lovers of god's word to disseminate the Bible as at the present time, and at no age has there been such a complex and diversified effort of the enemy to destroy it.

In the setting up of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, it pleased God to endow his servants with the gift of tongues, that they might be able to preach the Gospel in every nation under Heaven. To thwart this arrangement, the enemy set both Jews and Gentiles to effect their extermination, who were not slack in doing the work of death. The Disciples thus persecuted, fled into every quarter of the then known World, and with them went the Gospel. Thus was the enemy foiled by his own means, and the gift of tongues rendered unnecessary. To remedy this misfortune, it was the policy of the prince of darkness, to introduce a system of National (and therefore nominal) Christianity, that by making it popular, and vesting it with the royalty and the splendor of thrones and sceptres; the spirit of religion might be lost in the magnificence of its name. Paganism is soon abolished and religion is established by law; corruptions are sown in

the Church, and the wickedest and most ambitious of men, are made Teachers, Elders, Bishops, Cardinals and Popes: so that nothing is left of Christianity indeed but its name, except among those whom *God had sealed*, and they were persecuted by every variety of persecution, and death which the malace of hell could invent or the power of man accomplish; until they were driven from the very abodes of men to dwell in the Mountains and deserts with wild beasts, less cruel than these who professed the name of Christ. In this state of the Church God was pleased to discover the art of printing, that his word of testimony might be kept, uncorrupted in the Wilderness, by his Church, for their comfort and the future spread of the Gospel: and from those recesses of poverty and wretchedness whither the Church had fled from the cruelty of Papal despotism, has the light of truth shone on the after ages of the World, increasing in brightness and strength as it descended through a thousand years; consuming the Papal throne by its influence and filling the earth with the peace and glory of the Lord. Thus the enemy finding all his plans turned to his own overthrow: strong still in malace and undismayed by miscarriage: still fruitful in device, sought to turn this instance of God's mercy to his own advantage, and in the exercise of free enquiry to split the Church into a thousand fragments, and thereby cause it to work its own downfall. This experiment having been tried for three hundred years, it is found that although, it has been the fruitful source of a great deal of herecy, and corruption in doctrine and practice, it has ultimately proved unsuccessful. It seemed recently therefore the design of the enemy to amalgamate the whole, if possible to leaven the church with error, and to cover the gold with filth, but finding that while the word of God remained uncorrupted, that the true followers of Jesus Christ, looking to it as their heavenly charter, and deriving their faith and practice from it, would stand an impregnable barrier in his way; he has turned all his forces against the Bible itself: hence it is decried by modern infidels, proscribed by Papists, rendered a nullity by Shakerism, superseded by Mōmonism, mutilated by Arians and Socineans, and last but not least, corrupted and perverted by Campbleism: thus adopting the means for the accomplishing of his nefarious designs to the various prejudices of individuals & the states of societies; he intends more effectually to work their ruin.

All of these measures have been more or less pernicious

but it has been by means of the last named device that the enemy has produced so much sorrow and affliction throughout the Baptist church in Kentucky for the last four years. They Joab like, have professed unusual regard for the New Testament, and thereby have deceived thousands: But as Joab embraced Abner, so do they the N. Testament with their left arm to employ their right hand against it. They are opposed to all translations except A. Campble's, this they circulate with avidity; but are the professed enemies of all institutions, for the circulation of any other. Their efforts are, not to proselyte from the world those are already in the kingdom of darkness; but to corrupt and divide the church of Christ, they labor to effect without tiring. Against these heretics we seriously caution the churches, and advise, that whenever churches are pestered with this kind of nuisance, that they should exclud them forthwith from their fellowship and also from their houses of worship.

While we would caution our brethren, against the devices of the enemy, we would not leave you unapprised of the danger to which you are exposed by your conduct. O! brethren, guard your own hearts, trust not to your own strength, lest like Peter you prove how weak you are; "put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to resist the evils of the Devil." Read your Bibles much, pray often in private—in your Families, and in social meetings. Draw the cords of church discipline close—suffer no drunkard, no brawler, no evil worker, no profane person to defile the house of God.—Neglect not the assembling of yourselves together—indulge in no vain and idle speculations in divinity.—The Ministers which are among you, we exhort to beware of pride, vain glory and the popular applause of the world; the shoal on which thousands founder.—And then may we not confidently ask who shall harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good.

Finally brethren, farewell—"we commit you to God and the word of his grace, who is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance amongst all them who are sanctified."

A. M. HENRY Clk.

W. C. BUCK, Mod.

✠ Texts preached from during the association.—Friday—W. Tison—Naham 1st chap. 7th verse.—C. Bethel, Rom, 5th chapt. 21st verse—Saturday; J. Bobbett— 1st Cor 2d chapt. 2 V.—W. Downs—John 10 Capt. 9th V. Moore—Isai 53, 1st V—Lords day; J Bobbett—Mat. 5, 20th V.—W. C. Buck, Gens. 12th C. 1, 2, 3d V. T Downs—John, 3d chap, 5th versé